

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 124918

FOLLOWING REPEAT KINSHASA 4844 SENT ACTION SECSTATE 16 MAY 78

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 4844

DEPT ALSO FOR A/SY/OPS/FO/AF

DEPT PASS PEACE CORPS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CASC, CG

SUBJECT: CONSULATE LUBUMBASHI INPUT TO SHABA INVASION SITREP 2

THE FOLLOWING IS LUBUMBASHI'S INPUT TO SHABA INVASION - SITREP 2

WHICH WAS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE INCLUDED IN MISSION'S MAY 16

SUBMISSION (KINSHASA 4841).QUOTE

CONFIDENTIAL LUBUMBASHI 0474

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI MOPS CG

SUBJ: SHABA II SITREP; MAY 16, 1978

1. AMERICAN CITIZENS:

(A) ALL 6 (SIX) AMCITS FROM MULUNGWISHI (PCV JACKIE MAGRO,

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METHODISTS ELWOOD BARTLETT, DORIS BARTLETT, AND ELIZABETH REED;
AND MENONITES DAVID AND MARY KRAYBILL) AND (2) TWO AMCITS
FROM LIKASI (PCV'S KATHY BURRIS AND SUSAND DRAKE) ARRIVED IN
LUBUMBASHI AFTERNOON OF MAY 15. ALSO TWO GERMANS AND ONE SWISS
FROM MULUNGWISHI WERE WITH GROUP. CONSULATE CAR HAD ATTEMPTED
TO GO TO MULUNGWISHI TO PICK THEM UP IN THE EARLY MORNING, BUT
WAS TURNED BACK. GROUP WHICH INCLUDES ALL AMERICANS LIVING

IN AREA BETWEEN LUBUMBASHI AND KOLWEZI CAME IN CONVOY ORGANIZED BY METHODISTS.

(B) IN EXCHANGE FOR MEDICINES FOR GCM HOSPITAL IN KOLWEZI FROM METHODIST STOCKS IN KOLWEZI, GCM OFFICIALS AGREED TO TAKE CARE OF ENRIGHT DEPENDENTS WHO ARE TRAPPED IN KOLWEZI. (HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD KENNETH ENRIGHT WAS IN LUBUMBASHI ON WEEKEND OF MAY 13).

(C) CONSULATE LEARNED ON MAY 15 OF PRESENCE IN KAMINA OF AMCIT TOURST ROBERT HAROLD BROWN OF INDIANAPOLIS. A MESSAGE WAS SENT TO HIS FAMILY VIA SCS THAT HE WAS SAFE.

(D) PERE VALERIAN, CATHOLIC MISSIONARY IN KOLWEZI, HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS URBAN MESSERICK.

2. MILITARY ACTIVITIES:

(A) INVADERS: GCM REPORTS ON MAY 15 SHOWED CONTINUED HARASSMENT BY INVADERS OF EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY, BUT RELATIVELY LITTLE INFORMATION ABOUT CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN OPPOSING MILITARY FORCES OR ACTIONS DIRECTED AGAINST ZAIRIAN POPULATION. ACCORDING TO GCM, MOST OF MILITARY ACTIVITIES CONFINED TO LOOTING, SEARCHING HOUSES, AND SHOOTING UP TOWN. HARASSMENT AND STEALING FROM EUROPEANS PICKED UP ON MAY 15. THREE BELGIANS (MR. AND MRS. BLANCKAERT AND ONE STILL UNIDENTIFIED) AND ONE ITALIAN (MR. ROSSI) WERE REPORTEDLY KILLED BY INVADERS WHILE RESISTING EFFORTS TO EXPROPRIATE THEIR AUTOMOBILES. FIVE BELGIAN COOPERANT TEACHERS WITNESSED THE TURNING OVER OF ALL THEIR POSSESSIONS TO POOR OF CITE IN ROBIN HOOD GESTURE. INVADERS' SEARCH OF HOUSES
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CONDUCTED BY JOINT-CIVILIAN/MILITARY TEAMS, INDICATING POSSIBILITY THAT THERE MAY BE PRESENCE OF POLITICAL COMMISSAIRES. NO INFORMATION ABOUT SITUATION AFTER 1800 ON MAY 15 BECAUSE OF TECHNICAL PROBLEMS ON TELEPHONE LINE WHICH SNEI SAYS WILL BE REPAIRED BY AFTERNOON OF MAY 16.

(B) FAZ ACTIVITIES YLOM REPORTED THAT MIRAGES HAD STRAFED URBAN SECTIONS OF KOLWEZI ON MAY 15. GCM ALSO BELIEVES THAT GENERAL DIKUTA'S HEADQUARTERS HAS BEEN OCCUPIED.

(C) CATHOLIC MISSIONERY RADIO NETWORK REPORTS CALM IN KANZENZE/MPALA (2511E-1033S), ABOUT THIRTY-FIVE KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF KOLWEZI.

3. MILITARY POSITIONS:

(A) ACCORDING TO GCM, INVADERS SEEM TO BE IN CONTROL OF ENTIRE TOWN OF KOLWEZI AND SOUTHERN CITIES. FAZ IS BELIEVED TO BE ON NORTHERN SIDE OF TOWN (INCLUDING CIS COMPOUND).

(B) NO REPORTS AVAILABLE IN LUBUMBASHI ON MILITARY FORCES OR ACTIVITIES IN MUTSHATSHA OR KASAJI.

(C) SMTF REPORTS THAT SEVERAL COMPANIES OF FAZ TROOPS OCCUPIED TOWN OF FUNGURUNE (2624E-1040S) MAY 15. TROOPS RE-DEPLOYED THAT AFTERNOON AT LUALABA BRIDGE ACROSS LAKE NZILU. SMTF REPORTS PRESENCE OF ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS IN FAZ COLUMN.

4. POLITICAL ACTIVITIES:

(A) INVADERS IN KOLWEZI HAVE NOT YET MADE POLITICAL DEMANDS TO GCM OFFICIALS ON PURPOSE OF ATTACK, WHETHER AIMED AT OVERTHROW OF MOBUTU, INDEPENDENT KATANGA OR OTHER ALTERNATIVE. INVADERS PRESENTED GCM FROM MEETING MAY 15TH MID-MONTHLY PAYROLL. PEOPLE WERE ASKED TO GO TO WORK, BUT MOST EVERYONE STAYED HOME. GCM REPORTS THAT ONLY EMERGENCY POWER SOURCES ARE OPERATING, NO WATER IN TOWN OR TELEPHONES.

(B) SHABA REGIONAL COMMISSIONER EFAMBE RETURNED TO LUBUMBASHI ON MAY 15 AT 1300. DAO PLAN HAD GONE TO KAMINA TO PICK HIM UP EARLIER IN DAY.

(C) AUTHORITIES GAVE PERMISSION THAT RAIL TRANSPORT IN SHABA COULD RESUME MAY 16. THEY HAD HALTED ALL TRAINS ON MAY 13 BECAUSE
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THEY FEARED INVADERS WOULD CAPTURE AND USE TRAINS. RESUMPTION OF TRAFFIC MEANS PRIMARILY THAT COPPER AND MINERALS CAN BE SENT OUT AND THAT NEEDED IMPORTS CAN ARRIVE.

(D) SMTF IS IN PROCESS OF EVACUATING ALL WOMEN AND CHILDREN (ABOUT 15) FROM FUNGURUNE CAMP (2624E-1040S). LUBUMBASHI REP ESTIMATES EVACUATION WILL BE COMPLETED BY MORNING OF MAY 17. ABOUT SEVEN PERSONNEL (ALL UK CITIZENS) PLAN TO REMAIN AT CAMP. FUNGURUNE IS CLOSEST TOWN ON EAST WHERE EXPATRIATES LIVE.

(E) LIKASI AND KAMINA REMAIN QUIET.

(F) OUTWARD CALM PREVAILS IN LUBUMBASHI. CURFEW STRICTLY ENFORCED IN SOME AREA THOUGH FORCEFUL TYPES SEEMED TO BE ABLE TO MOVE ABOUT. SOME ARRESTS OF ALLEGED SYMPATHIZERS HAVE BEEN MADE BY CND. WHEN THE WIVES OF THREE PRISONERS BROUGHT FOOD TO THE PRISON ON MAY 15, THEY WERE TOLD THAT THEIR HUSBANDS WERE BEING TRANSFERRED TO KINSHASA.

(G) BELGIAN CONSUL GENERAL HAS RECEIVED LIST OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR GECAMINES HOSPITAL. HE IS MAKING REQUEST THROUGH HIS GOVT TO INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS.

5. PSYCHOLOGICAL RUMBLINGS:

WHILE LOCAL MEDIA HAVE GIVEN NO NEWS FOLLOWING SUNDAY/MONDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS OF FIGHTING IN KOLWEZI, THE "RADIO-TROTTOIR" BUZZES WITH WORD OF KATANGESE SUCCESSES IN MAINTAINING CONTROL OF KOLWEZI AND CAPTURING MUTSHATSHA. RUMOR HAD IT THAT KATANGESE COMMANDER MBUMBA HAS GIVEN ULTIMATUM THAT MOBUTU REGIME RESIGN BY FRIDAY OR WAR WILL BREAK OUT THROUGHOUT ZAIRE. HOPES DASHED BY FAILURE OF LAST YEAR'S INVASION ARE BEING FED BY SUCH RUMORS THAT REPORTEDLY ARE INCREASING POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THE INVADERS. LOCAL POPULATION SAID TO BE ENCOURAGED IN THIS SWING TO INVADERS BY SPECTACLE OF FAZ SOLDIERS IN LUBUMBASHI WITH ARMS BUT NO AMMUNITION, NO ORDERS. CERTAIN INTELLECTUALS TOO ARE READY TO BELIEVE IN REBEL VICOTRY AS BRINGING ABOUT SOUGHT AFTER CHANGE AT THE TOP. THEY SEE INVADERS AS PREGMATICALY RATHER THAN IDEOL-
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OGICALLY MOTIVATED. THEY ALSO JUDGE MOVUTU'S MILITARY POSITION
PRECARIOUS AFTER HE DEMORALIZED HIS OFFICER CORPS WITH MARCH
EXECUTIONS, EXPECIALLY OFFICERS FROM SHABA AND THE KASAI, WHO
ARE STILL WELL REPRESENTED PARTICULARLY IN ZAIRIAN AIR FORCE.
BELIEF EXPRESSED THAT KOLWEZI WOULD NOT BE IN HAND OF ARMED
INVADERS WERE IT NOT FOR FAZ COLLUSION.

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